

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2305 - SB 2364

February 21, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to designate at least 20 percent of the investigators in the Division of Investigations as Election Crime Specialists. Requires each District Attorney General to designate at least 20 percent of Assistant District Attorneys as Election Crime Specialists. Requires the director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to designate at least 20 percent of investigators in the Criminal Division as Election Crime Specialists. Requires the Coordinator of Elections to provide annual training to persons designated as Election Crime Specialists.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures -

Exceeds \$3,091,000/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- The current caseloads of investigators in the Comptroller's Division of Investigations would require the hiring of additional staff to comply with the requirements of the proposed legislation.
- Based on the estimated amount of investigations involved with election crime, the Comptroller would require the following new positions beginning in FY22-23:
 - Eight Investigators (two per each regional investigative team);
 - One Administrative Specialist; and
 - One Forensic Analyst.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$850,547 (\$670,000 salaries + \$180,547 benefits) in FY22-23 and subsequent years.
- Currently, only the four largest judicial districts would have the resources to comply with the proposed legislation.
- The other 28 judicial districts would require an additional part-time Assistant District Attorney (ADA) to accommodate the estimated workload of new investigations.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$699,888 (\$24,996 salary x 28 part-time ADA positions) in FY22-23 and subsequent years.
- There are currently 86 Special Agents housed in the TBI's Criminal Investigation Division (CID).
- Due to the requirements of the proposed legislation and the active caseload of agents relating to violent crimes, the TBI would require 19 additional positions.

HB 2305 - SB 2364

- Seventeen new Special Agents would be added to the CID and two additional Special Agents would be needed to assist with digital evidence processing.
- There will be a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$1,530,602 (\$63,144 + \$17,414 benefits x 19 Special Agent positions) in FY22-23 and subsequent years.
- The total cost to the Division of Elections to provide training to the Election Crime Specialists and to publish educational materials is estimated to exceed \$10,000 per year.
- A total recurring increase in state expenditures exceeds \$3,091,037 (\$850,547 Comptroller + \$699,888 District Attorneys + \$1,530,602 TBI + \$10,000 Division of Elections).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/ch